

JUDGES | THEY FORGOT THE LORD
JUDGES 3:7-11

“Everyone did what was right in their own eyes” is one of the most well-known phrases in the book of Judges. Some people may ask the question: Shouldn't we do what we think is right? But another phrase from Judges further explains the attitude of the Israelites: “And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.” Here lies the problem, what the Israelites thought was right in their own eyes was evil in the sight of the Lord. To make it worse, they did not care, because they forgot their God. They chose to exchange worship for Him for worship of false idols created by those who occupied the land God had promised them. Their holy and just God had no choice but to hold Israel accountable for their offenses against Him. The story of Israel's oppression by Mesopotamia and deliverance by the judge Othniel illustrates the road they had embarked on when they forgot the Lord. What can we learn about God's justice and mercy from the story of Othniel?

1. We tend to want to make our own _____ and define what is _____ even if it is _____ to the God who created us (3:7).

2. Our unacceptable lifestyle either leads to oppressive _____ or God's _____ (3:8).

3. God is _____ and delivers us when we cry out to Him in _____ (3:9).

4. God's deliverer for Israel was empowered by the _____ and brought them temporary _____. Our Deliver allows us to be filled with the same _____ and provides us eternal _____ (3:10-11).